

FARR ICR Renewal Q&As

Q: What is an Information Collection Request (ICR)?

A: The Paperwork Reduction Act stipulates that every federal agency must obtain approval from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) before collecting the same or similar information from 10 or more members of the public. If the Environmental Protection Agency decides to gather information, it must prepare an ICR.

An Information Collection Request:

- Describes the information to be collected,
- Gives the reason the information is needed,
- Estimates the time and cost for the public to answer the request.

After reviewing the request, OMB may approve, disapprove, or place conditions that must be met for approval. This process was designed to prevent unnecessary collections and reduce costs.

Examples of information collections include things like surveys, permits, and reports.

Q: What costs (burden) are included in an ICR?

A: Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; develop, acquire, install, and utilize technology and systems for the purposes of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; adjust the existing ways to comply with any previously applicable instructions and requirements which have subsequently changed; train personnel to be able to respond to a collection of information; search data sources; complete and review the collection of information; and transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

The costs associated with creating, collecting, maintaining, and reporting information are a subset of the entire cost of the regulation.

Q: Why is the ICR for the FARR being renewed now?

A: The original ICR for the FARR was approved in November 2004 and is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2007.

Q: Does the ICR renewal change the FARR in any way?

A: The ICR renewal is not a rule maker and does not change the requirements of the FARR.

Q: What are the steps in the ICR renewal process?

A: EPA published a Federal Register Notice on May 24, 2007 to announce that EPA is planning to submit a request to renew the existing approved ICR for the FARR to OMB. This notice solicits comments on the proposed information collection. EPA will consider the comments received and amend the ICR as appropriate. The final ICR package will then be submitted to OMB for review and approval. At that time, EPA will issue another Federal Register notice to announce the submission of the ICR to OMB and the opportunity to submit additional comments to OMB.

Q: Who do I contact for more information?

A: If you have any questions about this ICR or the approval process, please contact Debra Suzuki at 206-553-0985.